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7 March 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Berlin: [The removal by the East Germans on 6 March of the "slalom barriers" behind the wall at the Friedrichstrasse crossing point into East Berlin may be a preparatory step toward the introduction of new passport, visa, and customs control procedures. In late December, the East Germans constructed what were reported to be two customs sheds, one on each side of the street, at the Friedrichstrasse crossing point. The efficient use of these sheds would have been hampered by the barriers, which jutted into Friedrichstrasse from alongside one of the sheds. Such sheds would be necessary for the processing of travelers into East Berlin if the East Germans demanded that they present passports and visas. Friedrichstrasse is the only crossing point for non-German nationals.]

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Laos: [Souphanouvong has proposed several changes in the cabinet list drawn up on 23 February by Souvanna in consultation with the Western ambassadors. In conversations with Western representatives on 4 March at Khang Khay, the Pathet Lao leader posed no objections, however, to the balance between the various factions in the proposed cabinet. The most notable change is the substitution of Souphanouvong for Phoumi as minister of Information, Sports, and Youth. In the original proposal Phoumi had been assigned the Information Ministry, while Souphanouvong had been proposed as minister of Economy and Planning.]

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[Souvanna has indicated that upon Western acceptance of this cabinet revision he would visit Vientiane for further negotiations with Phoumi, who is expected to return to the capital.]

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On 7 March. Pending the outcome of these projected negotiations, Souvanna and Souphanouvong both have pledged to observe the cease-fire declaration agreed to last May. []

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Indonesia: The Indonesian cabinet reshuffle, announced on 6 March, shows General Nasution in a strengthened position. He was retained as both minister of National Security and as Army Chief of Staff, and the reduction of the "inner cabinet" from 17 to 8 ministers may have been made at his suggestion. Djunda remains as First Minister.

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The reorganization is evidently aimed at streamlining Sukarno's administration. It reflects continued preoccupation with the West New Guinea situation as well as increased efforts to grapple with economic and financial affairs. The personnel changes indicate a swing by Sukarno toward the army, as opposed to Communist and leftist influences, in his continuing policy of balancing these two predominant forces. []

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***USSR-Berlin:** (information as of 0300 EST) The USSR has filed flight plans for 10 LI-2 transports to operate in the Berlin corridors today--the highest number of Soviet military aircraft to be scheduled for corridor flights since the Soviets started giving notice of such flights on 19 February. Five flights outbound from the Berlin area are scheduled at 20-minute intervals in the northern corridor beginning at 0415 EST. Five inbound flights are scheduled in the southern corridor at 20-minute intervals beginning at 0807 EST, the last flight terminating at 1005 EST. One of these inbound flights coincides in time and altitude with a previously scheduled Pan American flight departing Frankfurt for Berlin at 0835 EST. In response

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to Western rejection of Soviet plans for the conflicting flight, the Soviet controller stated that the problem would have to wait until morning to be resolved.

The increased number of Soviet flights scheduled for the northern and southern air corridors on 7 March suggests that the USSR may now be embarking on a new test of Western air access to Berlin. Since 19 February, Moscow has been using a small number of daily flights to establish the principle that by generally following the Western procedures in BASC, Soviet aircraft have equal rights with the West to use the corridors. The USSR may now intend gradually to flood the corridors with Soviet military flights in the hope ultimately of disrupting commercial schedules and of laying the basis for demanding a change in present flight safety procedures. [redacted]

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As on 15 February, however, the USSR probably intends to stop short of actions which could result in a military confrontation with Western fighter aircraft.

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[redacted] Two Soviet transport flights were made in the southern corridor on 6 March in accordance with previously filed flight plans. [redacted]

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Reshuffled Indonesian Cabinet

The total number of cabinet posts has not been announced. The eight members of the "inner cabinet" are concurrently deputy first ministers, and other ministerial posts will be grouped under them.

Among those dropped from the "inner cabinet" are Prijono, who presumably still holds the Education portfolio, and Chaerul Saleh, who apparently retains his two posts of Construction and Basic Industries and Mining. Top army officers consistently have opposed these two men, charging that their sympathy for the Murba, or "national communist" party, makes them untrustworthy. Ruslan Abdulgani, long uncooperative with the army, has been relieved as vice chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council, a post formerly included in the "inner cabinet." He has been succeeded by Sartono, formerly speaker of parliament, a member of the National party, and a moderate nationalist. This appointment gives the National party renewed respectability and may indicate Sukarno's intention to increase his present limited use of political parties. The strongly leftist Iwa Kusamasumantri has been removed from the post of Higher Education and Science and appointed State Minister Accredited to the President.

Sukarno is scheduled to deliver a major public address on 8 March, during which he probably will explain the cabinet changes. He is also likely to discuss the course of his campaign to acquire West New Guinea from the Dutch, rationalize Indonesia's precarious economic situation, and promise early increases in food and clothing supplies, and other improvements after New Guinea has been "returned" to the fatherland.

Although Sukarno appears interested in discussing a peaceful settlement in West New Guinea, he shows little disposition to compromise and continues Indonesia's military buildup.

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